

Howard County BRAC Task Force (HC-BRAC-TF)**Task Force Memorandum:** 2008-06**For:** Howard County BRAC Constituency**Subject:** Update on Fort Meade Growth Impacts and Opportunities**Date:** 9 May 2008**Originator:** Kent Menser, Executive Director of the HC BRAC Office

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to update our Fort Meade Growth/BRAC constituency on the latest actions, events and schedules related to this important effort. If I have left out important information or you have a great solution to an issue, please let me know. Kent Menser 410-313-6521 or kmenser@howardcountymd.gov

HC BRAC TF Committees	Co-Chair	Co-Chair
<i>Work Force Housing</i>	Paul Revelle	Stacey Spann
<i>Public Safety</i>	Joseph Herr	William McMahon
<i>Education</i>	Bob Price	Roger Plunkett
<i>Transportation</i>	Ron Meliker	Carl Balser
<i>Infrastructure</i>	Wayne Wilhelm	Steve Gerwin
<i>Health and Human Services</i>	Vidia Dhanraj	Lois Mikkila
<i>Workforce Development</i>	Francine Trout	Patty Keeton
<i>Family Support</i>	Rosi Melendez	Diane Pelesh
Lessons Learned	Dwight Hollenbach	David Faigenbaum
Plans and Analysis Team	Jean Friedberg	
Resource Partners	Theo Bell	
Executive	Sam Seymour	

SCHEDULE:

- HC BRAC Task Force Meetings:
 - 14 May 2008 (Cancelled)
 - 11 June 2008 (End of Phase III Briefings)Meeting Location (Same for all meetings):
Howard County Gateway Office Building
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive (First Floor)
Columbia, Maryland. Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
- Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC) Meeting:
 - 29 May 2008
 - Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM
 - Meeting Location: Same as above

BACKGROUND:

- Task Force Phase III: This is a busy time across Howard County and a very busy time within our Howard County BRAC Task Force. We are now in the home stretch in Phase III. Our primary focus should be on our analysis of the Maryland State BRAC Action Plan. This will not be a critique, but an effort to identify any key tasks that may be missing from the document or to identify areas where it is out of alignment with our Howard County BRAC effort. The Task Force Committees involved in this process will be reporting their findings to the Howard County Executive on June 10th.
- Business Opportunities Committee: During the month of May, we will be adding a *Business Opportunity Committee* to our BRAC Task Force. Simply stated, the purpose of

- this committee will be to identify the opportunities that Fort Meade growth should generate for businesses in Howard County, with special emphasis on our small businesses. One of the objectives of this committee will be to develop a template to facilitate the connectivity between our businesses and Fort Meade Growth opportunities. We have no illusions about the challenges involved with this project! The impetus for this effort comes from Congressman Cummings and County Executive Ulman, who strongly believe that these opportunities do exist and that we can work as a team to address common issues. More to follow on this action.
- There are Quevils among us! A Quevil is an evil, termite like, beast that erodes our quality of life bit by bit. They are so insignificant in size that one has little noticeable impact on us. It is when they swarm that they do the most damage and by that time it is too late to prevent the subject erosion. In our work in the BRAC Task Force, we need to be on the look out for signs of Quevils and eradicate them. The best defense against them is effective planning, complete transparency and documented accountability.
 - Regionalism:
 - *The Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC)* has been up and running for over a year! These 8 counties and two cities have successfully worked several key actions with the State of Maryland and the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA). Currently we are in the process of completing the legal staffing of a formal Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the 10 jurisdictions.
 - *The next major task that the RGMC will tackle* will be the establishment of a Transportation Subcommittee. The work of this regional subcommittee will be critical to the identification and then reduction of the negative impacts of Fort Meade growth in the Meade Coordination Zone (MCZ) and beyond. Managing/facilitating/coordinating the growth around Fort Meade is particularly challenging because of the number of jurisdictions that are affected by developments and activities that will be taking place within the zone. During the month of May we will be sending a message out to the field soliciting membership in this committee. More to come!
 - *Regional transportation coordination:*
 - § On 5 May 2008, members of the MDOT / SHA staff came to Columbia to brief the RGMC, county staff members and local residents on transportation planning processes and BRAC projects related to Fort Meade growth. This meeting provided a vehicle for many key transportation players at the state, regional and local levels to reconnect and discuss common issues. From the RGMC standpoint, one major issue is the absence of two key regional BRAC highway projects from both the Maryland BRAC Action Plan and the CTP. These projects are; the intersection of routes 175/1 and the stretch of route 175 from the BW Parkway to route 1. We have no expectations that the construction can be completed before the arrival of the BRAC organizations, but we do want to get the planning and engineering process started as quickly as possible. Howard County and the RGMC are currently working with the State of Maryland to resolve this issue.
 - § A second issue is the timing of the improvements to the highways in the MCZ. The SHA has determined that only 6 of 22 failing intersections can be improved based on current funding. The major improvements to upgrade the capacity of this corridor will not occur before 2015 under current planning assumptions (see below).

- *The next Department of Defense Grant Request* submitted by the RGMC will focus on Regional Emergency Management Services. Our 8 counties and 2 cities reached a consensus on this last month. During June we will establish a committee consisting of representatives from each jurisdiction to begin the grant development process.
- General Observations and Information:
 - Traffic congestion will continue to worsen in the areas around Fort Meade into the foreseeable future! The only questions are; how much worse and how long will it take to apply remedies. Current plans – before factoring in the demands posed by BRAC – show the bulk of the improvements occurring in the 2015-2020 time frame.
 - Currently there are little or no Federal monies available to support transportation requirements generated by Fort Meade growth.
 - Fort Meade growth makes up less than 10% of forecasted regional growth (6 counties) over the next 15 years.
 - A Task Force welcome to David Faigenbaum who will be joining Dwight Hollenbach as a Co-chair on the Lessons Learned Committee.
 - Congratulations to the new Family Support Committee for getting off to a fast and effective start!

JOIN THE TASK FORCE:

- Do you want to help sustain and/or improve the quality of life of your county? Join the HC BRAC TF! Send an email to Kent Menser at kmenser@howardcountymd.gov.